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FROMM-Online

# Psychoanalyst Erich Fromm Is Dead at 79 in Switzerland

MURALTO, Switzerland, March 18 (AP) — Erich Fromm, 79, German-born American psychoanalyst who was an apostle of love and proponent of "alternative" life styles, died today at his home of a heart attack, family sources said. He would have been 80 on Sunday.

Mr. Fromm was rated as one of the world's leading figures in the psychoanalytic movement. Among his pioneering works were "Psychoanalysis and Religion," "Healthy Society" and "The Art of Loving." In the latter, he advanced the thesis that love is the only sane and satisfactory answer to the problems of human existence.

He felt that Western man had become estranged from himself in industrial society and considered how man could come to terms with his isolation and insignificance.

In his best-selling book, "Escape From Freedom," Mr. Fromm traced the development of human freedom and self-awareness from the Middle Ages through the Renaissance and Reformation to recent times. The book is regarded as a landmark in psychology, intellectual history and political philosophy.

was a process of self-alienation in Western culture, "indifference toward oneself and toward others," and recommended a return to a simpler life style.

## Authoritarian Forms

He sympathized with the humanitarian concerns of religion as expressed in the teachings of Jesus and Buddha and by Jewish and Christian mystics, but opposed what he viewed as authoritarian forms of religion.

A native of Frankfurt, Mr. Fromm emigrated to the United States when Hitler launched his anti-Jewish campaign following the 1933 Nazi takeover in Germany.

He lectured at several U.S. universities, including Columbia, Yale, New York University and Bennington College, and for several years was a professor at the National University of Mexico. He settled in Muralto, outside Locarno, in the late 1960s.

His other works include "The Forgotten Language," "Sigmund Freud's Mission," "The Dogma of



Erich Fromm

Christ and Other Essays on Religion, Psychology and Culture," "Revolution of Hope," "Social Character in a Mexican Village," "The Anatomy of Human Destructiveness" and "To Have or To Be."

## Nuclear Policy

The alienation of man in a consumer-oriented society was the theme of "The Sane Society," one of Mr. Fromm's most influential works. The title of the book inspired the name of the National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, which he helped organize in 1957.

Mr. Fromm's concern about the prospects of nuclear war permeated another book, entitled "May Man Prevail?" In it, he contended that the hostility between the United States and the Soviet Union resulted from paranoid thinking based on misconceptions that the two powers held about each other's aims.

In "The Heart of Man," Mr. Fromm discussed the creative and destructive capacities of humankind and contrasted two types of personality: one attracted to death and decay, the other with a reverence for life.

Mr. Fromm was a vociferous critic of what he felt were radical "vulgarized" interpretations of Sigmund Freud's theory that the repression of conflicts into the subconscious mind was at the root of psychoneurotic disorders. These radicals called for the abolition of all moral-religious barriers limiting the professed freedom of the "principle of lust."

Mr. Fromm held that psychoanalysts, like theologians, should awaken the "voice of the conscience" and appeal to a patient's morality. He was saddened at what he felt

# Van Agt 'Survive

By Jonathan Kandell

THE HAGUE (IHT) — "I will not paint things rosier than they really are," said Andries van Agt, premier of the Netherlands. "To a great extent, I spend my time trying to survive."

Beyond French visions of grandeur and West German attempts to translate economic strength into political clout abroad, there is another Europe whose leaders seem almost overwhelmed by the weight of internal problems and still skeptical that their continent is unified and strong enough to

Like a number of his leagues, Mr. van Agt has evaded political stances posed by bickering razor-thin parliamentary parties he would rather be viewed as an "apolitical" professional politician or statesman. He reminds of a man who did not particularly see his role. He gives the impression of not being shattered to fall from a position of power, but is curiously ambiguous about another term in government. He does well in elections next spring.

He even jokes that his fan base goes back to the 17th century of the Netherlands because they felt he would be a sign at any moment. So Mr. van Agt spends his weekends in their southern Holland.

"It is not a political style developed in order to survive and it is effective so I said the 49-year-old premier at the official residence. "There is a need for strong leadership. But there is a reluctance to have someone who pretends to be a political leader."

His style, though popular with part of the electorate, is not without controversy. A seasoned diplomat, he has followed Dutch politics for several years. Mr. van Agt "is contrary to all predictions, but are made by his government on important issues like defense, but other economic matters."

## Mistakes Acknowledged

"His tactic is to behave like not a professional, to gain sympathy by exploiting a widespread sentiment that should not be trusted," says Uyl, Mr. van Agt's predecessor and now leader of the opposition.

## IHT SPECIAL REPORT

warrant talk of an independent European role on the world stage.

Such talk has reached a high decibel count lately. Earlier this month, the French President, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, on a trip through the Middle East, called for a European initiative to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict that would go beyond the peace negotiations sponsored by the United States. Since the beginning of the year, both France and West Germany have tried to forge a European response to the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan distinct from the harder line reaction advocated by the United States.

But as Mr. van Agt points out, "President Giscard d'Estaing does not have the right to pretend to speak for the European Community on foreign policy — at least, he certainly does not represent us." If other voices are not being heard, Mr. van Agt suggests, it is because most European leaders are looking inward. In Italy, Belgium, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Portugal and the Netherlands, heads of government make the news outside their countries more often than not for simply weathering another political crisis.

## inside

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